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**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES INDEX
SEPTEMBER 14, 2009
REGULAR SESSION 7:00 P.M.
WILLIAM ANNIN MIDDLE SCHOOL**

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The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Koch.

I. Salute to Flag

II. Roll Call

PRESENT: Mr. Byrne, Ms. Carlsson, Mr. Carlucci, Ms. Cwerner, Mr. Koch,
Ms. McGowan, Ms. McKeon

ABSENT: Mr. Wilke

III. Regular Session – Call to Order – 7:00 p.m. – William Annin Middle School Auditorium

IV. Statement of Public Notice

This was a regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Bernards Township. Notice of the time and place of this meeting was provided and copies of that resolution were forwarded to the official newspapers as designated by the Board of Education and to the Township Clerk and a copy of the notice was posted on the bulletin board of the Board of Education Offices in accordance with P.L. 1975 Chapter 231A.

We very much welcome input from the public. There are two times during regular meetings that the public is invited to speak. One time is early in the meeting before the Board votes, and you may speak about any item that is listed on tonight's agenda. Towards the end of the meeting, there is another public forum to address any topic whatsoever.

When you approach the microphone, please state your name and address. We do not have a specific time limit, but we ask that you keep your comments brief. Please understand that our public forums are not structured as question and answer sessions, but rather they are offered as opportunities to share your

thoughts with the Board. In instances where the Board feels that there is a misunderstanding or inaccuracy, a member of the Board or Administration will address it in the Board Response portion of the agenda.

There are times when a member of the public makes a comment or asks a question about an employee. New Jersey statute does not permit us to discuss personnel issues in public. Also as a matter of law, a Board of Education may only vote for or against the hiring of an employee upon the recommendation of the superintendent. If the superintendent does not recommend a person, that person's name is not listed on the agenda and there is no vote on that action. If it is necessary for the Board to go into executive session at the end of the meeting, we will provide an estimated length of time for the session and whether any action is anticipated to be taken upon returning to public session.

V. President's Report

Board President Bill Koch thanked Board member Lisa Winter for her many years of service and reviewed the process for filling the resulting vacancy on the Board.

VI. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Valerie Goger reported on the successful opening of the school year. She cited an overall enrollment increase of 38 students, and thanked the principals for their efforts in preparing for the new school year.

VII. Business Administrator's Report

Business Administrator Nick Markarian updated the Board of Education on the status of the annual audit, the QSAC facilities inspection by the Executive County Superintendent and County Business Administrator, the '11 month walkthrough' at the high school following completion of construction, and the exploration of electronically posting bus route information on the district's Parent Access Center for next year.

VIII. Committee Reports

Finance Committee

Chairperson Lou Carlucci stated that the next meeting is scheduled for September 16.

Personnel Committee

No report.

Curriculum Committee

Susan Carlsson stated the minutes from the previous committee meeting will be distributed shortly. She spoke about the new curriculum mapping software and encouraged the Board to view it on the district's website. Future meetings are scheduled for the second Thursday of the month beginning at 8:45 AM.

Community Relations Committee

Chairperson Susan Carlsson announced that the committee intends to develop a work plan which will include petitioning the Department of Education to make all cap waivers permanent. She also requested that the committee's efforts to attend as many student activities as possible be augmented by the full Board.

Policy Committee

Chairperson Bev Cwerner stated that the next meeting is scheduled for September 16. The committee will discuss QSAC policy additions/revisions and the recent request for multiple bus stops for parents with joint custody.

Liaison Reports

Liaison Susan Carlsson stated that she would discuss bus problems experienced at the opening of school with the Somerset County Educational Services Commission Superintendent, and that she was recently elected President of the Somerset County School Boards Association. She encouraged Board members to attend the trainings offered by the SCSBA.

IX. Public Forum on Other than Agenda Items

A statement was made regarding multiple bus stops for parents with joint custody.

X. Board Forum

1) Board Forum

Comments were made regarding the scheduling of topics under Board Forum and that the process sometimes restricts discussion of new topics. It was agreed that Board members should continue to submit topics for discussion under Board Forum in advance of the meeting, but if new topics arise during a meeting, they may be brought up for either discussion that evening, or for a future listing under Board Forum.

2) Self-Evaluation Process

Susan Carlsson led a discussion of several indicators on the Self-Evaluation in which a majority rating was adequate or unsatisfactory. After lengthy discussion of several items, including differing interpretations of scoring and indicators, it was agreed that the self-evaluation process would be modified in the future to include uniform interpretation.

3) Professional Development Plan

After discussion of possible directions in which professional development could be obtained, it was agreed that each committee would discuss suggested needs and opportunities for professional development and report back to the full Board at its October 12 meeting.

XI. Adjournment

On motion by Ms. Carlsson, seconded by Mr. Carlucci, and approved by all present, the meeting was adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick Markarian
Board Secretary